

in which the column traces can be formed on the back side of a cover glass and row traces can be formed on the bottom side of a separate PET film. Substantially transparent glass subassembly 234 can have a stackup of layers that can include, in order from top to bottom, substantially transparent AG coating 213 (shown as a dashed line at the top of the subassembly), substantially transparent 0.7 borosilicate or aluminum silicate glass, black mask (in limited areas), and substantially transparent conductive material such as patterned ITO (15 to 200 ohm max, with 0.3 lines and 0.030 spaces) formed as columns. Note that the patterned ITO layer is symbolically illustrated in FIG. 2a as a dashed line representing patterning 250. Substantially transparent PET subassembly 236 of thickness 0.188 can be bonded to glass subassembly 234 using PSA 208. One purpose of PET subassembly 236 can be to support a substantially transparent layer of conductive material such as patterned ITO (75 to 500 ohm max, with 5.0 lines and 0.050 spaces) formed as rows, and also to provide a low capacitive layer between the rows and columns. The two layers of patterned substantially transparent conductive material can be of the same or different composition. Together, glass subassembly 234 through PET film subassembly 236, and any intervening layers, can form the touchscreen.

[0040] FPC 204 can be bonded using ACF (0.003 after bonding) to the back side of glass subassembly 234. FPC 226 can be also bonded using ACF to the rows that can be formed on the bottom of PET subassembly 236. Substantially transparent PSA 214 of 0.125 thickness can be used to bond PET film subassembly 236 to LCD module 210, which can include a 0.2 polarizer layer 215 and liquid crystals 217. The complete assembly can then be mounted into window 216 in housing 218. Note that when the complete assembly is mounted in housing 218, glass subassembly 234 can be either even with or slightly recessed (0.3 Z step) from the top of the window.

[0041] FIG. 2b is similar to FIG. 2a, except that PET film subassembly 236 is not fully laminated to LCD module 210. Instead, air gap 220 can be formed between them, and a ring of Poron 222 can be formed around the perimeter of the touchscreen.

[0042] FIG. 2c is similar to FIG. 2b in that it includes air gap 220, but it can be mounted into an enclosure having overhanging bezel 224.

[0043] FIG. 2d is a hybrid of FIGS. 2a and 2c, wherein overhanging bezel 224 can allow the blackmask step to be eliminated, and full lamination can be used (see full layer of PSA 208).

[0044] FIGS. 3a and 3b illustrate various exemplary touch screen sensor panel stackups with columns and rows that can be formed on opposite sides of a single substrate according to one embodiment of this invention.

[0045] FIG. 3a shows an approximately 0.9 substantially transparent PC (or glass) housing 318. Bonded to housing 318 using 0.100 substantially transparent PSA 308 can be a stackup in which the column traces and row traces can be formed on opposite sides of a single substrate. Substantially transparent glass subassembly 338 can have a stackup of layers that can include, in order from top to bottom, for example, substantially transparent conductive material such as patterned ITO (15 to 200 ohm max, with 0.3 lines and 0.030 spaces) formed as columns, substantially transparent 0.7 borosilicate or aluminum silicate or chemically strengthened soda lime glass, and substantially transparent conductive material such as patterned ITO (75 to 200 ohm max, with 5.0 lines and 0.050

spaces) formed as rows. The two layers of patterned substantially transparent conductive material can be of the same or different composition. Note that the patterned ITO layers are symbolically illustrated in FIG. 3a as dashed lines representing patterning 319 and 350.

[0046] FPC 330 can be bonded using ACF (0.003 after bonding) to the rows on the back side of glass subassembly 338, and also another FPC (not shown in FIG. 3a) can be bonded to the columns which are on the front or top side of the glass. Clear PSA 314 of 0.100 thickness can be used to bond glass subassembly 338 to LCD module 310, which can include polarizer layer 315 and liquid crystals 317.

[0047] FIG. 3b is similar to FIG. 3a, except that glass subassembly 338 is not fully laminated to LCD module 310. Instead, air gap 320 can be formed between them, and a ring of Poron 322 can be formed around the perimeter of glass subassembly 338. AR films or coatings can be applied to the back of the touch glass, and the front of the polarizer, to minimize optical losses.

[0048] FIG. 3c is similar to FIG. 3a, except that passivation layers 301 are formed between patterning 319 and PSA 309, and between patterning 350 and PSA 314. Passivation layers 301 can be formed from silicon oxide, and can serve to prevent acid in the PSA from attacking the patterned ITO. Passivation layers 301 can also physically protect the ITO and metal layers from other corrosive agents, such as sweat from an assembly operator during the manufacturing process, and can physically protect the ITO and metal layers from scratches during assembly. It should be understood that although the use of passivation layers between ITO patterning and the PSA is only shown in FIG. 3c, a passivation layer can be formed between the ITO or metal and the PSA in any of the embodiments described and shown herein.

[0049] FIGS. 4a-4d illustrate various exemplary touch screen sensor panel stackups with rows and columns that can be formed on the back side of a cover glass according to one embodiment of this invention.

[0050] FIG. 4a shows window 416 that can be formed in 0.8 to 1.0 substantially transparent PC housing 418. Within window 416 can be a stack-up in which the column and row traces can be formed on the back side of a cover glass. Substantially transparent glass subassembly 442 can have a stackup of layers that can include, in order from top to bottom, for example, substantially transparent AG coating 413 (shown as a dashed line at the top of the subassembly), substantially transparent 0.7 borosilicate or aluminum silicate glass, black mask (in limited areas), substantially transparent conductive material such as patterned ITO (15 to 200 ohm max, with 0.3 lines and 0.030 spaces) formed as columns, 0.025 mm substantially transparent dielectric (sol-gel TiO₂) with vias, patterned metal (0.025 ohm max, 0.030 lines and 0.030 spaces), and a 0.188 layer of substantially transparent conductive material such as patterned ITO (75 to 200 ohm max, with 0.3 lines and 0.030 spaces) formed as rows. The patterned metal can be formed in the border areas of the touchscreen to connect to the rows and/or columns and route them to an edge of the touchscreen. The two layers of patterned substantially transparent conductive material can be of the same or different composition. Note that the patterned ITO layers, dielectric and metal are symbolically illustrated in FIG. 4a as a dashed line representing patterning 444. Substantially transparent PET subassembly 406 can be bonded to glass subassembly 442 using substantially transparent PSA 408. One purpose of PET subassembly 406 can be to support a 0.188